

Remarks

Claims 15 and 16 were amended, and claim 14 was cancelled. Claims 1-13, 15-19, and 25-33 are pending. In light of the forgoing amendment and following remarks, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections, and advancement of this application to allowance.

A. Preliminary Matter

The examiner allowed claims 1-13, 17-19, and 25-33. The examiner also indicated that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. The applicants thank the examiner for these findings.

B. Objection

Claim 15 was objected. The applicants have amended claim 15 into an independent format, including all of the elements of its parent claim. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 15.

C. Rejection

Claims 14 and 16 stand rejected as being anticipated by Burr et al. The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The applicants have cancelled claim 14, without prejudice. The applicants have also amended claim 16 to depend from claim 15, which is now allowable. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants request withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections and issuance of a notice of allowance. The applicants note there may be reasons and arguments that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited references in addition to those set forth in . The applicants reserve the right to raise any such argument in the future and to pursue any claim scope supported by the disclosure set forth in the application.

Please contact the undersigned attorney-if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

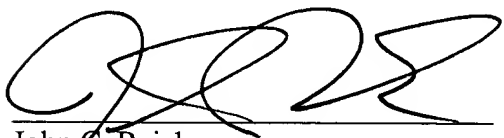
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